

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, February 22, 2012

Present

Franca Biales
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Richard Kamins
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Charlotte McCoid
David Davis
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (Sec.)
Lee Godburn (Chair)
Lauren Hodge (student rep)
Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Barbara Arafah
Fran Ganguli

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Lea Tomaszewski
Maria Malafronte (student rep)
Bob Santangelo (council)
Linda Salafia (council)

Call to order

Commission Chair Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Municipal Building, room 208, Middletown, CT.

Public session: No public in attendance.

Minutes from January 22, 2012

Motion to approve by Richard, second by Charlotte. Approved.

Remarks from the Chair

Commission Chair Godburn skipped for the evening in view of the evening's work load.

Old Business

Budget Report – no report this month. Stephan reviewed recent printing costs, and music dues.

Program Update

- a. *Arts Stakeholders Group*: Cassandra Day reported the group has been growing its membership.
- b. *Arts & Creative Industries Council, Creative Juice (Chamber of Commerce)*: Cassandra Day there was a meeting with new people attending from outside Middletown.
- c. *Website-Arts2Go.org*: no report
- d. *Ethics Code*: gift limits, no report
- e. *Sub-committee* assignments are completed.
- f. *MCA 40th*: In progress
- g. *"Our Town" NEA grant opportunity*: meetings continue towards the next grant period.
- h. *"City Canvases" DECD-COA grant opportunity*, informational meetings were held at the library earlier in Feb. which yielded a consensus on location(s) and form of mural project
- i. *MCA Budget- 2012-2013*: Stephan will be meeting with the Mayor and Finance Dept. within the week.
- j. *Other*: no report

Committee Reports

Public Art Committee

Catalogue of Public Art Collection: Mrs. Raymond's flag artwork will be displayed with a plaque detailing a few details from their narrative and personal story. Brochure is ready to move forward with printer. Jennifer Hawkins Lecce motioned to accept the committee recommendation to accept the artwork by Helen Raymond, Charlotte McCoid seconds. Passed with two abstentions (Fran Ganguli, Barbara Arafeh).

MCAAAA 2012: will be reviewed in spring.

Display Area Dedication: ongoing

Planning & Projects Committee:

- a. *Arts Walk:* through continuing discussions, Arts Walk may merge with the new city-wide arts (Our Town) grant, as well as other possible scenarios to partner in the community.
- b. *Arts Advocacy Award:* (4/16 -17/2012) nominations were shared. The cut off for nominations has been moved to February 29, 2012.

Nominating Committee: Review of Bylaws: ongoing.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): Kids Arts applications are out and on-line.

New Business

a) Category 2 &3 Grant Recommendations & Decisions:

Russell Library: Richard Kamins recused himself at 7:40 and left the room. Panel recommends that we award \$478.00 Charlotte motioned to award \$478.00 to Russell Library as recommended by the panel. Jennifer seconded. Passed unanimously. Richard returned to the room at 7:50.

Jeff Hush: The panel recommends that we award \$4000.00 to the Phoolan Devi Opera Tours. Motioned to accept by Fran and seconded by Franca. Discussion ensued. Votes: 6 in favor (David Davis, Lee Godburn, Charlotte McCoid, Richard Kamins, Fran Ganguli, Franca Biales); 3 opposed (Cassandra Day, Joyce Kirkpatrick, Jenny Hawkins Lecce); 1 abstention (Barbara Arafeh)

Greater Middletown Concert Assoc: Barbara Arafeh recused herself from the room and the discussion at 8:10. Panel recommends giving \$4000.00 to the Greater Middletown Concert Assoc. Richard motioned to accept the recommendation, David seconded. Passed unanimously. Barbara returned to the room at 8:20.

Helen M Evrard: The panel recommends we give her \$500. Charlotte motions that we give Helen M Evrard \$500 toward the expenses of her book. Fran seconded. Discussion ensued. Votes: 7 in favor (David Davis, Richard Kamins, Fran Ganguli, Barbara Arafeh, Charlotte McCoid, Franca Biales, Joyce Kirkpatrick); 2 opposed (Cassandra Day, Lee Godburn); 1 abstention (Jenny Hawkins Lecce).

b) Category 1 Decisions

The Greater Middletown Chorale GOS: Joyce Kirkpatrick recused herself at 9:21. Richard moved that we award the chorale \$7500. Seconded by Fran. Discussion ensued. Passed unanimously.

Oddfellows Playhouse GOS: Richard recommends \$10000 to Oddfellows, Cassandra seconded. Discussion ensued. Passed unanimously.

North End Arts Rising, Inc GOS: Richard moves that we award \$18000 to NEAR, Joyce seconded. Discussion ensued. Passed unanimously.

ArtFarm GOS: Richard recommends that we award ArtFarm \$3000 to tide them over while they are in hiatus in hopes that they return next year with a big production. Fran seconded. Discussion ensued. Votes: 9 in favor (David Davis, Richard Kamins, Fran Ganguli, Barbara Arafah, Charlotte McCoid, Franca Biales, Lee Godburn, Cassandra Day, Jenny Hawkins Lecce); 1 opposed (Joyce Kirkpatrick).

Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council GOS: Richard recommends that we award the Cultural Council GOS \$5000. Cassandra seconded. Discussion ensued. Passed unanimously.

Middletown Public Schools Cultural Council APS: Richard recommends that we award Cultural Council APS \$1000 to kick off next year's funding. Cassandra seconded. Discussion ensued. Passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Other: Reviewing and reconsidering our grant applications will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Adjournment

Richard Kamins moved to adjourn at 9:53 p.m., seconded by Joyce Kirkpatrick. The Commission will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on March 28, 2012.

Respectfully submitted
Jenny Hawkins Lecce